

"ENTHUSIASM" MEANS TAKING AN INTEREST IN LIFE

The True Optimist Is Necessarily Enthusiastic, Otherwise He Would Be a "Grouch" and a Pessimist.

"ENTHUSIASM" PRIZE WINNERS.

TEN PRIZES OF ONE DOLLAR EACH.

Wilma L. Glass.....	Hyattsville, Md.
Mrs. F. L. Barringer.....	1433 Q street northwest
Mrs. Alfonso Armstrong.....	Nokessville, Va.
Mrs. J. J. O'Connell.....	934 I street northwest
H. W. Smith, D. D.....	748 Morton street
Thomas V. Murto.....	St. Charles College, Elliott City, Md.
Mrs. Clara F. Williams.....	101 Sixth street northeast
Esther K. White.....	204 Gloucester street, Annapolis, Md.
B. W. Sonen.....	1145 Seventeenth street northwest
Susie M. Musselwhite.....	Bluefield, W. Va.

By THE OPTIMIST.

Dear Fellow-optimists: Well, here we are again, at another mile stone of the club's career, with a topic that requires some consideration to adequately define and apply to our work.

I have heard enthusiasm described as the state of mind where imagination gets the better of judgment.

If this be true we must beware of our enthusiasms. But, of course, it naturally follows that if we try to analyze an enthusiasm it leaves off being one, so that anything considered in calm, cold analysis is not enthusiasm at all.

We prefer, as optimists, to look upon enthusiasm as an ecstatic joy in living. I will tell you what enthusiasm means to the optimist. It is finding something good in everything; not only taking a pleasure in the good and pleasant things of life, but in taking the attitude that trouble and disappointment are merely temporary trials and that we are going through a refining process all the time.

Enthusiasm is the bubbling, joyous spring. We get out into the woods and the meadows and all nature seems smiling and happy. The birds sing about the building of their nests and the young creatures frolic in the pure exuberance of the joy they feel in the awakened earth. Man, too, roused from his winter of gloom, likes to bask in the sun, to get out into the open and take note of the budding of green things and carry home great armfuls of flowers and sweet-smelling wild flowers.

Did you never feel the enthusiasm of the spring and partake in that glorious riot of new-born life?

Enthusiasm is of the warm and happy summer. Nature has gotten over her frill and has buckled down to the hard but pleasant labor of replenishing the earth stock of treasures—those things which sprouted in the spring and taking all summer to grow into the fulfillment of nature's promise.

Man has little to do then but to stand by and let his enthusiasm dwell upon the mysteries of life, to take, perhaps, a brief vacation and give full sway to his hopes for the coming harvest.

Those of us who are of the cities feel somehow as though we were cheated out of something while the glories of spring and summer are to be enjoyed. So we stray away from our accustomed haunts and make little excursions to places where we can get a taste of nature.

Enthusiasm is of the autumn, for then the world is busy with its tasks. Man, whether of the cities or of the country, is engaged on new projects. He feels the call to arms, as it were. Frolicking and waiting are over; the real work begins. He is happy in the thought that he is to try his mettle on new tasks, and great plans engage his thoughts and his attention.

Enthusiasm is of the winter. It is then that Charity stretches out her hands to be filled. The poor and the forsaken and the homeless need help, and Nature, in her need to give the earth and the growing things a rest, is hardest on the children of the world. All our energies are required to combat the cold, and the battle goes on fiercer than ever to overcome difficulties and impending distress.

It is then that enthusiasm for work is needed. I have endeavored to show you the natural courses of enthusiasm, and have done so because I believe that enthusiasm is a natural and unconscious quality of the mind. The enthusiast, though accused of lack of judgment, helps to make the world happy.

How unhappy must be those who are blasé and who have no eager inspirations to color the monotony of their lives! Happily, the members of our club are enthusiastic. When we have lost them all we are objects of pity.

To awake enthusiasm is one of the objects of our club; to show other people how blithe and gay an optimist can be, to grasp every opportunity to give an object lesson in right living, in enthusiastic living.

The enthusiastic man is not easily downcast; no amount of setbacks can dash his spirit to the earth. Give me the man or the woman of enthusiasms and I will show you the true missionaries of optimism. And optimism is the essence of right living.

If you are not enthusiastic by nature, cultivate an interest in things. Keep up your enthusiasm and you will never grow old. It doesn't matter in the least that others may think you childish or lacking in judgment. There is more in life than the frigid contemplation of facts. It is the glamour of imagination and of enthusiasm that lends brightness and happiness to the daily life. I would not part with one of my enthusiasms, for they are not easy to replace.

Enthusiasm is born of impulse, and as long as there are good impulses I will endeavor to keep my mind out of track of the bad ones. We can all do this. Conscience and principle tell us right from wrong, and the worst enemy of enthusiasm will not accuse any one of this band of optimists of being enthusiastic over evil.

Don't let your enthusiasms die. As long as you have them you have happiness.

We have another cartoon to-day by Optimist Lamborne, and I am sure you will agree with me that it is an apt one. I want to repeat my invitation to all the optimists who are artists to send in sketches illustrating some phase of optimism. I am planning to have a contest of cartoons for the very near future, but I cannot tell, unless you send me samples of your work, how many of you are eligible or whether there are enough of you to make such a contest an interesting one.

Also, please remember that if any of you have a special subject dealing with optimism that you would like to have considered all you have to do is to suggest it. I am anxious to have all the

members represented in this way, and it brings the club closer together to have the suggestions for discussion come from the individual members.

The majority of expressions which I have received are in favor of the new plan of ten first prizes which are now taking the place of the graded prizes. There were one or two dissenting voices. One of them feared a dropping away in the membership, but I think I can say that there were more new members brought in last week than any other one week since last June.

That the quality of the contributions will decrease under the new plan I will not believe for a minute. I have too great faith in my optimists for that. I know that you are all laboring for a principle and not for self-interest. The club is firmly established and we shall continue to grow and to add our mite to the world's progress in higher thought and in actions and in spiritual qualities prove ourselves worthy of the name of optimist.

The ten prize-winning contributions this week follow:

Enthusiasm is that quality which keeps the boy spirit in the gray-haired man. It gives a firm step, a bright eye, an alert personality. It is the propeller which keeps the machinery in motion. Knowledge may be the engine and goodness the lubricant, but they could not achieve satisfactory results without enthusiasm, for it is that factor which makes the world go "round. It is the intensity of the orator, the passion of the poet, the inspiration of the painter, and the love in the hearts of God's children which stretches out a helping hand to the one in need. It is the whole-hearted zeal, without which nothing worth doing can be accomplished in this busy world. "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." B. W. SONEN.

1145 Seventeenth street.

Enthusiasm is an ecstasy of mind, as if from inspiration or possession by a spiritual influence. It is founded neither on reason nor Divine revelation, but rises from a warmed imagination. It is the predominance of the emotional over the intellectual powers. It is the complete possession of the mind by any subject. Hence, guided by reason or experience, it becomes a passion that prompts to the ardent pursuit of laudable objects. Such is the enthusiasm of the poet, the orator, the painter, the hero, the Christian. No project can be well started without it. Enthusiasm is the lubricant that makes the wheels of trade go round.

ESTHER K. WHITE.

204 Gloucester street, Annapolis, Md.

The life that has lost its enthusiasm loses its best incentive and is barren of results either for self or for others. Enthusiasm helps one through the hardest tasks, guided by reason or experience. It becomes a passion that prompts to the ardent pursuit of laudable objects. Such is the enthusiasm of the poet, the orator, the painter, the hero, the Christian. No project can be well started without it. Enthusiasm is the lubricant that makes the wheels of trade go round.

Mrs. CLARA F. WILLIAMS.

101 Sixth street northeast.

With sparkling eye and glowing countenance, figure well balanced and shoulders erect, attentive ear and ready answer, a man seems permeated with real, throbbing life. He it is that has a good stomach, who steps out of a tardy, halting gait into a firm, military stride. Nothing seems capable of breaking down his spirit, which, all alive with energy to be as much assistance as possible to his race and himself, pursues life actively, and necessarily he has become an optimist, for difficulties the most formidable and severe crumble away before his healthy look. His life is one continuous effective movement; his nature is always at the point of ebullition; his spirit is untrammelled by the "don'ts" and "can'ts" of a feeble world.

THOMAS V. MURTO.

St. Charles College, Elliott City, Md.

Rev. Charles Hill was a man of powerful voice and was sometimes completely carried away by the impetuous rush of his feelings. On one such occasion, while he was preaching at Walton, he explained: "Because I am in earnest men call me an enthusiast. But I am not. Mine are the

words of truth and soberness. I saw a gravel pit fall in and bury three human beings alive. I lifted up my voice for help so loud that I was heard in the town, a mile away. Help came and rescued the sufferers. No man called me an enthusiast then. And when I see eternal destruction ready to fall on sinners I call to them to escape." H. W. SMITH, D. D., 748 Morton street.

Enthusiasm is that secret and harmonious spirit which hovers over the production of genius, throwing the reader of a book or the spectator of a statue into the very ideal presence whence these works have really originated. A great work always leaves us in a state of musing. Solitude is the nurse of enthusiasm and enthusiasm is the true parent of genius. In all ages solitude has been called for, has been flown to. Enthusiasts soon understand each other. Mrs. J. J. O'CONNELL, 934 I street northwest.

Enthusiasm is the life-giving principle that not only keeps alive our ideas by fanning the flame, but helps develop them to the highest degree of perfection and actually lifts the foot to a higher step on the ladder of fame and fortune. It makes us think deeper, study harder, investigate more thoroughly, use more caution, and endows us with the essential elements that lead on to the achievement of success.

We cannot expect to do anything that is worth doing if we do not have plenty of enthusiasm, for without it we will not exert enough energy, and success is not attained without a worthy effort.

WILMA L. GLASS.

Hyattsville, Md.

According to the Dictionary, enthusiasm means "God-inspired," and what a wonderfully divine thing it is! It is enthusiasm that keeps this old world running, that keeps its vast humanity from lapsing into stony indifference or inaction, that mysterious gleam that leads it on. The same may be applied to the individual. With the sculptor it is enthusiasm that infuses that vital quality and life into cold, still marble. With the musician it is that same indefinable something that appeals to and touches the hearts of men. With the poet and writer that same something that emanates from a high seriousness, from exalted enthusiasm, whether expressed in Miltonic verse or lullaby, is that power which lives from generation to generation and molds the lives of men and of nations. But none the less does it influence the lives of those of us less gifted. We cannot all express our feelings and those beautiful impulses that would dominate our lives through marble, music, or verse, perhaps, but we can through our lives, which is of vastly more consequence. Then let us not smother that enthusiasm, that divine fire that burns within us, seeking for expression, but list to the teachings of Clough, the English poet as he says: "Go from the east to the west, as the sun and the stars direct thee. Go with the gliding of man, go and compass the earth. Not for the gain of the gold, for the getting, the hoarding, the having. But for the joy of the deed, but for the duty to do. Go with the spiritual life, the higher volition and action. With the great gliding of God go and compass the earth. Go; say not in thy heart 'And what then were it accomplished. Were the wild impulse allayed, what were the use or the good? Go; when the instinct is stilled and purpose forever spurring him onward toward the goal of success. If you would be declared to thee then. Go with the sun and stars, and yet evermore in thy spirit. Say to thyself, 'It is good, yet ever better than it.' This that I see is not all, and this that I do is but little. Nevertheless it is good, though there is better than it." SUSIE M. MUSSELWHITE.

Rhodes, Va.

Enthusiasm is defined to be the heat of imagination. I cannot agree with the definition. When we are enthusiastic over our work or some pleasure, I don't call that imagination. Take our work as optimists, for example. How much good it does us to help others and cheer them when they are sick or in trouble. An enthusiastic person gets so much more out of life than a gloomy one does. We have become enthusiastic over our "Let's Help Club" till we have become enthusiastic over it. We are always looking for the best in everybody and everything and trying to get others to do the same. Give me the enthusiastic person every time. They always see the bright side of life.

Mrs. ALFONZO ARMSTRONG.

Nokessville, Va.

Enthusiasm, inspiration! The spirit which inspires one to give out the best that is in them. All true optimists are enthusiasts because they enjoy so many things. They enter into the spirit and are interested in everything that the common people do. They have the true spirit of cordiality and comradeship, the friendly smile that radiates good fellowship and dispels the chill. They are full

of zeal without being zealous. In fact, are just bubbling over with so many good things that they just have to let them out. Helen Keller says: "If I should try to say amen to the creed of the optimist I should say something like this: I believe in God, I believe in man, I believe in the power of the spirit. I believe it is a sacred duty to encourage ourselves and others, to hold the tongue from any unhappy word against God's world, because no man has any right to complain of a universe which God made good and which thousands of men have striven to keep good. I believe we should so act that we may draw nearer and more near the age when no man shall live at his ease while another suffers." Mrs. E. L. BARRINGER.

1433 Q street.

Honorable mention:

"Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm." A. P. PENNYWITT.

Glenaby, Va.

"Without enthusiasm," said Montaigne, "your life will be a blank and success will never attend it. Enthusiasm is the one secret of success. It blinds us to the criticisms of the world which so often damp our very earliest efforts. It makes us alive to one single object—that which we are working at—and fills us not with the desire only, but with the resolve of doing well whatever is occupying our attention." M. AGNES DUNN.

1321 Corcoran street.

As the pool which has no outlet and no bubbling spring beneath its waters becomes stagnant and covered with scum, so our lives become stagnant and without purpose unless we have the tiny spring of enthusiasm bubbling within our hearts and the safe, sane outlet of work. It is not necessary to possess the wild, hilarious enthusiasm which marks the actions of some people nor the placid heedlessness of others, but a steady, calm enthusiasm, the ardent zeal in pursuit of an object, the lifting of the mind by the means of this enthusiasm from the doubts and dangers which beset our work to the grand, glorious end. This is an attitude to be held in light esteem, especially by our young people. Proper enthusiasm is an impetus, a sort of inspiration for work. It keeps the red light of the goal ever burning before us and dispels the dark clouds of despair.

MARION G. BARKER.

133 F street northwest.

If God gave you gayety and cheer of spirit, lift up the careworn by it. Wherever you go shine and sing. In every household there is drudgery. In every household there is sorrow. If you come as a prince, with a cheerful, buoyant nature, in the name of God, do not lay aside those royal robes of yours.—Beecher.

Mrs. T. K. O'BRIEN.

79 S street northwest.

The optimist knows that nothing great is ever accomplished without enthusiasm, which is the inspiration of great interest, or, I might say, a joyous earnestness, takes in his work of broadening and uplifting himself and others toward the happiness of this world and the reward to be gained hereafter.

E. M. GLOTTZBACH.

1114 Thirteenth street northeast.

The hopes, motives, and aspirations of our lives are influenced by our enthusiasm. The enthusiast may die, but he never surrenders. Recognizing no obstacle, he knows not the word failure. Enthusiasm gives him faith, energy, and purpose, forever spurring him onward toward the goal of success. If you would be successful, enthuse.

MARSHALL BAILEY.

103 Chapin street.

Enthusiasm is the leaping lightning, not to be measured by the horsepower of the understanding.—Emerson.

Mrs. E. V. BRISCOE.

803 Southern avenue, Pittsburg, Pa.

"The fire of true enthusiasm is like the fires of Baku, which no water can ever quench and which burn steadily on from night to day and year to year because their wellspring is eternal."

Mrs. E. R. MCCRIM.

1201 B street northeast.

No wild enthusiast ever yet could rest 'Till half mankind were like himself possessed.

—William Cowper, "Progress of Error," line 679.

As enthusiasm is contagious, see that it is on sane and right lines, such as wholesome optimism.

Mrs. M. S. TABER.

The sense of this word among the Greeks affords the noblest definition of it. Enthusiasm signifies "God in us"—M. de Stael.

Mrs. T. K. O'BRIEN.

79 S street northwest.

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm. It is the real allegory of the tale of Orpheus. It moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sinners, and truth accomplishes no victories without it.—Bulwer.

LAURA V. ALLEN.

Arlington, Va.

If we have enthusiasm at the start. And never fail to do our part. It will matter not how fast the pace. We'll be eager to win the race.

Bad weather will not keep us back. If with energy we have no lack. And we'll not be in the rear. Or have cause to shed a tear.

Fear to us will not be known. And we'll have not a lazy bone. For we'll know what we are doing. And like the work that we're pursuing.

Worry and care will leave no trace. Of wrinkles or lines upon our face. For we'll be too busy of time to think. And time will fly as quick as wink.

The road may be rough and steep. Or the mud in the way may be deep. But we'll not be daunted by anything. While the bells of enthusiasm ring.

CHARLES FRANCIS GLASS.

Hyattsville, Md.

I live for those who love me.

For those who know me true;

For the heaven that bends above me,

And the good that I can do;

For the cause that needs assistance,

For the wrongs that lack resistance;

For the future in the distance,

And the good that I can do.

—Thomas Guthrie.

J. H. GRAY.

624 I street northeast.

It is the intensity of purpose fired by the oil of enthusiasm that causes sublime achievements. Work is made less burdensome when it is performed with ardor, because under the magic spell, absorbed with attainment, forgetful of self, unmindful of the passing of time, the toiler pursues the will-o'-the-wisp of enthusiasm through the marshes of monotony, and the luminous light vanishes only when

he finds himself, possibly wearied by the chase, in the city of Accomplishment.

Many masterpieces of art owe their greatness to the enchanting influence of enthusiasm. The hand of the artist is guided by eagerness and controlled by a burning desire to see the canvas reflect ideal beauty and have perfection form as much a part of the picture as the blended colors of his brush.

LOUIS VARNUM WOLFE.

303 New York avenue northwest.

Enthusiasm gives birth to hope, stimulates courage, and eventuates success.

Enthusiasm unites desire with purpose, ultimately in victory.

Enthusiasm is the oratory of speech, the earnestness of language, and the evidence of sincerity.

Without enthusiasm the words of the most learned statesman fall upon ears that hear not and the most elaborate pen pictures of the illustrator fall upon eyes that see not the reproduction.

Enthusiasm regenerates failing human organisms, reconstructs wasting energy, and rejuvenates the aged. It is the stimulus of ambition, the hope of the discouraged, the keynote of the musician, and the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life.

It is the electric dynamo that propels all effort and lightens the path of every earth traveler. Let us

Be in earnest in all we do.

Enthuse in each purposeful deed.

Then will our work, faithful and true, Supply every want we need.

Mrs. VERA HUGHES.

84 N. Broadway, Yorkers, N. Y.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.—Emerson.

G. L. DUNN.

133 Corcoran street.

Enthusiasm is the element of success in everything. It is the light that leads to the strength that lifts men on and up in the great struggle of scientific pursuits and of professional labor. It is the endurance of difficulty and makes a pleasure of duty.—Bishop Doane.

Mrs. W. F. HALLACK.

63 Maryland avenue northwest.

Enthusiasm is one of the most important items which make up the "sunny side of life." To be enthusiastic is to enter into what you do with all your heart and soul and make everybody around you feel the good influence. Life would be dull indeed if we did not put enthusiasm into it. The hardest task becomes lighter if we try to find the best way to do it. An enthusiast is always an optimist, as it is impossible for him to look on the dark side of anything. We plan a journey and "enthuse" over the minutest detail and thereby derive a double pleasure. We attend a lecture, and if the speaker is enthusiastic we forget time and space and live only in the pictures portrayed so vividly. It is a gift, a talent, which may be cultivated to advantage by any of us and to the benefit of all who come in contact with us.

A. S. HANNEY.

307 New Jersey avenue northwest.

The heart is dead that has ceased to throb with longing for something yet better, and the hand is dead that in its duty has slackened its working. We must live and die learning, striving. We want enthusiasm. No life ever reached anything very beautiful, radiant, noble without this fire of God burning at its heart.

As Browning puts it:

"Enthusiasm is the best thing, I repeat, 'Only one can't command it; fire and life are all dead matter's nothing, we agree, And be it a mad dream or God's very breath."

The facts are the same. Belief's fire once in us,

Makes of all else mere stuff to show itself.

We penetrate our life with such a glow As fire lends wood or iron. . . . But paint a fire, it will not therefore burn;

Light one in me, I'll find it food enough."

MALCOLM D. LAMBOURNE.

311 Fourteenth street northeast.

Enthusiasm is one of life's condiments. Taken as a whole, it has not the full merit of any particular virtue, but in combination it gives luster to all of them. It is a spark that kindles a pleasure, an energy that makes duty a pleasure, an energy that gives a beautiful tone to our life's work if desires are pure and aspirations unselfish.

Mrs. E. D. FRANK.

128 G street northeast.

Filled with enthusiasm from on high, Let every optimist draw nigh. And feel the warm, congenial breeze That only enthusiasts can breathe.

For they are easily understood, As all our inspirations arise for good; Then each of us new zeal inspire, When doing good we never tire.

ABRAHAM THOMPSON ROWE.

338 Eighth street northeast.

Enthusiasm is the real impetus of deeds, great or small. In its true sense it is the same stimulant, the potent, energizing principle of life. It is a drain for stagnant waters or a veritable irrigation channel for ideas dead at the roots. Enthusiasm dries and does, and hope is for it not a possibility, but a probability. Yet to be an enthusiast one need not be nervously eager nor a flimsy fad-monger, for a smiling, strong enthusiasm reaching earnestly and surely and with a glowing heart for the rungs of the ladder of the ideal will be firm where others slip and climb, where others fall. An optimist without enthusiasm is like a nightingale without Shelley.

J. RUSSELL MCCARTHY.

Huntington, Pa.

"To be inspired or possessed by the gods." "Exaltation of soul opposed to calculation."

The first of the year I resolved to remember each morning the watchword, "Let's help," and if I forget 't some morning I don't expect to do much for others or get very enthusiastic about doing it. To be real enthusiastic one must be an optimist. A pessimist isn't happy; anything but happy. You can't be optimistic without being happy.

Enthusiasm is happiness. An enthusi-

ast is warm-hearted. "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Calculation is cold. No one needs enthusiasm to commit a crime. Many a crime is committed by cold calculation, though.

We need enthusiasm to accomplish any good, I feel, if we don't get enthusiastic about it at some time we don't seem to enjoy it and won't accomplish very much.

St. Paul was a great enthusiast, wholehearted. If we follow any line of life, even in the humblest capacity, with half the earnestness and enthusiasm that he adhered to throughout his life, we will do great good in the world.

I. F. BARNES.

379 Fifteenth street northwest.

BLAZE THE WAY.

On man's crimes. He not a seer, Whilst the echoes of the dying Play upon your deadened ear.

Join the passing show to-day, sir; Lend your presence—be a man. If you meet a crook or cripple, Point the way, then lead the van.

Inspiration's born of action. And the best way to enthuse The downtrodden and crestfallen Is to help and not abuse.

Clip the wings of criticism; Scream the evils of his sting. Show an optimistic spirit; String your lyre, then pull the string.

Make a symphony of sunshine Overshadow others' cares; And the wickedness of Satan You've outwitted unawares.